



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Annual Fin, Fire & Feather Fest Scheduled at Ochoco Creek Park

PRINEVILLE-Hundreds of Crook County students are expected to come to Ochoco Creek Park to learn about native fish when the 17th annual Prineville Fin, Fire & Feather Fest returns on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Approximately 500 students from kindergarten through third grade are expected to attend the fest to learn about salmon life cycles, stream ecology, fish identification, geology, hydrology, wildlife, wildland fire and forest ecosystems.

Twenty activity stations will provide the students with learning opportunities and hands-on projects for a fun-filled day of learning without the expense of a school field trip.

“The Fin, Fire & Feather Fest is truly a great opportunity to engage our youth in outdoor nature-based activities. It takes a great deal of collective effort to make this event happen and we really appreciate the time and effort our partners contribute,” said District Ranger Bill Queen.

Students are invited to participate in a costume parade, listen to stories, view amphibians in aquariums, learn about wildland fire, identify birds and fish and try their skills at fish printing art. “Tammy and Tommy Trout” will speak to the kids at the Ochoco Creek Bridge.

Fin, Fire & Feather Fest events run from 9:30-2:00 p.m. for 2nd & 3rd grades with 1st graders finishing at 12:00 noon. Participating schools included Crooked River Elementary, Ochoco Elementary, Cecil Sly Elementary and Crook County Christian School. Home-schooled kids from the local community are also invited.

Volunteer students from Crook county High School will help set-up and administer the educational stations.

Fin, Fire & Feather Fest is an educational outreach program of the Ochoco National Forest. Partners include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, Crook County Parks and Recreation, Crook County School district, Crook County Soil and Water Conservation District, Cove Palisades State Park, Crooked River Watershed Council, Crook County Search and Rescue, and K.D. Payne.

For more information contact Aaron Martin, Ochoco National Forest fisheries biologist at 541-416-6480 or visit www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon

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